

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

GTO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1435

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF VOLSPEAKER FRANK TACHAU

REF: CM-1186, JUNE 21, 1973

1. TACHAU JUST COMPLETED THREE-DAY PROGRAM OF PUBLIC AND LUNCHEON DISCUSSIONS ON THEME "IS THERE A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISES IN U.S."

USIS NICOSIA OFFERS FOLLOWING EVALUATION AND SEVERAL CAVEATS FOR POSTS WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERING PROGRAMMING HIM.

2. ALTHOUGH HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON

WATERGATE AND ASSOCIATED TOPICS, TACHAU'S STRENGTH IS DEFINITELY IN HIS FIRST FIELD AS ASTUTE OBSERVER OF MODERN TURKEY. HE IS WEAK ON BROADER CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS RAISED BY WATERGATE INVESTIGATION AND IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS, FREELY ADMITTING HE FELL INTO THIS TOPIC BY DEFAULT AS THE "ONLY AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENTIST IN TURKEY" WHO COULD RESPOND TO LOCAL DEMAND FOR WATERGATE EXEGESIS.

IN NICOSIA TACHAU WAS SATISFACTORY IN GENERALIZED DISCUSSION OF WATERGATE IMPEACHMENT FACTS AND PROCEDURES BUT APPARENTLY HAD NOT GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO MORE SOPHISTICATED CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS.

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3. TACHAU HAS EVIDENTLY RE-WRITTEN HIS PUBLIC LECTURE SINCE MAKING

EARLIER PRESENTATION AT OTHER POSTS AND IS NOW MARKEDLY BIASED AGAINST NIXON ADMINISTRATION. HIS FACTS REMAIN CORRECT AND HE LABELS PERSONAL OPINIONS AS SUCH, BUT WE FELT HE WAS PERHAPS TOO PARTISAN FOR USIS-PROVIDED FORUM, AND AMERICAN OFFICERS WERE SEVERAL TIMES CONSTRAINED PRESENT BALANCING STATEMENTS FOR OUR AUDIENCES. BY OFF-SETTING TACHAU'S PRIVATE CONCLUSIONS WHILE ALLOWING HIM OUTLINE FACTS AND POSSIBLE SCENARIOS WE WERE ABLE ACHIEVE PROJECT'S OBJECTIVES BUT POST URGES ICS AND CU TAKE NOTE THAT THIS EXPERIENCE UNDERLINES NEED IN FIELD FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND CAREFULLY SELECTED SPEAKERS ON COMPLICATED SUBJECTS VITAL TO OUR PROGRAM EFFORTS. POST-CONDUCTED SPEAKER HUNTS CAN BE HAZARDOUS AS WELL AS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON SERENDIPITOUS IDENTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE TALENT.
WOZNIAK

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